

Support Job Growth and Innovation

June 21, 2011

Dear Colleague:

As members of the New Democrat Coalition, we believe that America's innovative potential remains the foundation of its future prosperity. We believe in the power of new ideas to create unlimited and transformative opportunities for American workers and businesses. And we believe that by promoting innovation and the free flow of ideas, we contribute to the maintenance of a just, fair and democratic society.

For these reasons, we strongly support passage of H.R. 1249, The America Invents Act. Patents are a critical component in the engine of an innovation economy; however, due to a growing backlog of over 700,000 applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) that engine is threatening to stall. It now takes almost three years for an innovator to successfully navigate the patent process, and that time has grown over the last five years due to attrition and staffing constraints. It is estimated that the U.S. could create as many as 2.25 million jobs, over the next 3 years; simply by eliminating the patent backlog.

H.R. 1249 contains critical provisions to ensure a more efficient and well-functioning patent system. Among others, the bill will provide the USPTO with the resources needed to reduce the patent backlog by ending the diversion of funds collected from patent applicants and ensuring the USPTO can readily access these funds, increase the objectivity of our patent system, increase patent quality by providing a fast and precise vehicle for the experts at PTO to review questionable business method patents, and create additional certainty in patent law by ensuring every inventor who is first to file can, with diligence, determine in advance whether he/she will be entitled to a patent. The end result is a bill that represents a strong compromise that is good for inventors and investors alike and will help support strong job growth in the U.S.

The Judiciary Committee approved H.R. 1249 by a strong bipartisan vote of 32 to 3. We urge your support for H.R. 1249, The American Invents Act, when it comes to the House Floor for a vote to keep the momentum going and enact these overdue patent reforms which will help support job growth and innovation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Jason Altmire
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Allyson Schwartz

Adam Smith

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Jim Moran
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Ed Perlmutter
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Gerry Connolly
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John Carney
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